

Online Safety Newsletter

What do you know about Discord?

Discord is a social networking app used by gamers to chat to each other. There can be in app purchases through Discord's premium subscription service. The minimum age to access Discord is 13. The Apple App store rates it as 17+. Discord is made up of servers, which are spaces for groups to chat, upload files and share images etc. Anybody can set up a server and they can either be public or private. Users can video call and send direct messages to other individuals or groups.

Children who play online games such as Fortnite may use Discord to chat about the game (rather than the game's own chat facility).

How can I make it safer?

Discord have created this article, which outlines four steps to creating a safer account, including how to block users.

<https://discord.com/safety/360043857751-Four-steps-to-a-supersafe-account>

What do I need to be aware of?

We always encourage you to chat to your child to see why they use different apps/websites and ensure that they know how to block users and what to do if they see any inappropriate content. It is important to be aware that Discord does include video/voice calling which cannot be filtered. Discord is used by an array of users and therefore adult content can be found on Discord as well as inappropriate language. Discord have produced this article, which answers common questions:

<https://discord.com/safety/360044149591-answering-parents-and-educators-top-questions>

Snapchat Family Centre

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is an app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. You must be 13+ to sign up. Users can send messages (snaps) to others that can only be seen for a set time period e.g. 10 seconds. Users can also upload snaps to stories which then disappear after 24 hours.



Snapchat Family Centre

Snapchat have introduced a new in-app tool called Family Centre. Family Centre will allow you to see who your child is friends with on Snapchat and who they have been communicating with (you will not be able to see the contents of conversations). You will also be able to see who they are friends with on Snapchat, report accounts confidentially and view resources to help you start conversations with your child about online safety. Snapchat are also planning on adding additional tools within Family Centre in the future. You can find out more about Family Centre here:

<https://snap.com/en-GB/safety-and-impact/post/family-center>

And there is a youtube guide [here](#)

Instagram - What are the risks?

Instagram is one of the most popular social media platforms in the World, with over 1 Billion users worldwide. The platform allows users to upload images and videos to their feeds, create 'stories' and share live videos as well as exchange private messages, or follow other accounts that they like.

National online safety is an organisation which believes in giving parents and carers the information they need to have an informed conversation about online safety with their children. They have put together [a comprehensive guide](#) to the possible dangers to children of using Instagram.

